

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 SAJ-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 271825Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 314

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NATO, XT, GW, FR

SUBJECT: FRG MINISTER'S VIEWS ON FRANCE AND US-EUROPEAN
RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: FRG MINISTER MAIHOFFER HAS TOLD ME THAT HE
BELIEVES THE US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPRECIATE THE FRAGILITY
OF THE EC AND INSTABILITY OF SOME MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN HIS
VIEW, THE US HAS OVER-REACTED TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE;
THE FRENCH ARE OVER-EXTENDED ON MANY FRONTS AND, WHEN THIS
BECOMES APPARENT, FRANCE WILL HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO
RETREAT. HENCE, THE U.S. SHOULD DISPLAY PATIENCE,
RATHER THAN FORCE THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

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2. WEST GERMAN MINISTER W/O PORTFOLIO WERNER MAIHOFFER

ENGAGED ME IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT US EUROPEAN RELATIONS AT
PRESIDENT HEINEMANN'S RECEPTION AT THE ROYAL PALANCE MARCH 24.

3. WHEN I ANSWERED MAIHOFFER'S QUESTION ABOUT MY VIEWS OF
US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS WITH THE COMMENT THAT BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S
AND THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS WERE ON RECORD AND SPOKE FOR
THEMSELVES, MAIHOFFER SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED THE FRAGILITY OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY AND THE INSTABILITY OF SOME OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES.
EXPANSION OF THE EC HAD BROUGHT NEW PROBLEMS, HE NOTED, AND
EVEN AFTER THE SCHEEL-CALLAGHAN CONVERSATIONS IT WAS NOT
CLEAR WHERE THE BRITISH INTENDED TO GO OR WHAT THEIR REAL
ATTITUDE WAS. IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES EACH
EC COUNTRY FELT THE TUG OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS -- INTERNAL TO
THE EC AND INTERNAL TO ITSELF. RECENT US COMMENT ON EUROPEAN
ACTIONS HAD BEEN TOO HARSH, HE SAID; THE UNITED STATES HAD
OVER-REACTIONED. HE HASTENED TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT HE UNDERSTOOD
THE US VIEW ON CONSULTATIONS, AND THAT THERE WAS MERIT IN IT.

4. MAIHOFFER SAID EUROPE'S PROBLEM WAS FRANCE, AND THE UNITED
STATES WAS PUTTING THE FRG IN THE MOST DIFFICULT POSITION OF
HAVING TO MAKE AN AGONIZING CHOICE BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE
UNITED STATES. RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, HE SAID, WERE THE SINGLE
MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAINTAINING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY; RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WERE THE MOST
IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAINTAINING EUROPEAN SECURITY. US
POLICY IS NOW MAKING IT INCREASINGLY PROBABLE THAT
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE PUSHED INTO ANTAGONIZING THE
FRENCH JUST AS THE FRENCH ARE BECOMING SERIOUSLY OVEREXTENDED
WITH RESPECT TO THEIR DOMESTIC ECONOMY, THEIR FOREIGN POLICY
ASPIRATIONS -- ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS THE USSR -- AND
THEIR EFFORTS TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE AND INCREASE MARKETS
IN THE MUSLIM LANDS. IN THIS SITUATION, MAIHOFFER SAID, THE
BEST POLICY WOULD BE TO WAIT. THE FACT THAT FRANCE IS
OVEREXTENDED WILL COME HOME EVENTUALLY TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE,
HE SAID, AND WHEN IT DOES WE MUST HAVE LEFT OPEN FOR FRANCE
AN HONORABLE RETREAT.

5. MAIHOFFER CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT HE FELT THAT SOME
IMPROVEMENT IN THE EUROPEAN AND US-EUROPEAN SITUATIONS HAD
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ALREADY RESULTED FROM RECENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
UNITED STATES. STRAUSS-KHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY, MINISTER COUNSELORS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE01854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740067-0071
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740312/aaaaakyt.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG MINISTER'S VIEWS ON FRANCE AND US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, XT, GE, FR, US, EEC, NATO, (MAIHOFER, WERNER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005